

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

THE CONGRESSIONAL CLOCK IS RUNNING FASTER THAN WE WOULD LIKE, AND THERE IS MUCH MORE WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE WE GAVEL OUT THE 99TH CONGRESS.

THIS WEEK -- I HOPE IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO -- WE WILL VOTE ON THE NOMINATIONS OF JUSTICE REHNQUIST AND JUDGE SCALIA. AND THEN, WE NEED TO MOVE ON TO BUDGETARY MATTERS -- NAMELY THE RECONCILIATION SAVINGS PACKAGE.

NOW, SOME CRITICS WOULD SAY THAT TOO MUCH OF THE LOAD WAS DUMPED ON THE WANING DAYS OF THIS SESSION.

WELL, MY VIEW HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT WHEN YOU HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, THE ONLY RESPONSE IS TO GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS. BUT I DO WANT TO OFFER A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, FOR WE HAVE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE. THE SENATE SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED, OR EVEN UNUSUAL. IN FACT, WE MAY EVEN BE AHEAD OF THE CURVE!

THE RECORD SHOWS THAT THE SENATE PASSED THREE APPROPRIATION BILLS SO FAR THIS YEAR. A NUMBER OF THE REMAINING BILLS SHOULD BE ACTED UPON DURING THE LAST WEEKS OF THE SESSION. BUT FOR THOSE WHO THINK THE SENATE IS SLOWING DOWN, OR THAT TV IS RESTRICTING OUR ABILITY TO GET THINGS DONE OR THAT PARTISANSHIP HAS TAKEN OVER, A LOOK AT RECENT HISTORY MAY BE INSTRUCTIVE.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS, I WOULD LIKE TO INSERT AT THIS POINT IN THE RECORD A CHART SHOWING THE PARTY RATIOS, NUMBER OF DAYS IN SESSION AND HOURS IN SESSION IN EVERY CONGRESS SINCE THE 94TH CONGRESS. I BELIEVE THIS CHART IS VERY HELPFUL: IT SHOWS THAT THE PACE OF BUSINESS IN THE 99TH CONGRESS HAS NOT SLOWED DOWN, AND MAY IN FACT HAVE PICKED UP A BIT. WE ARE PUTTING IN LONG HOURS AND GETTING A LOT DONE.

| <u>CONGRESS</u> | <u>DATES</u> | <u>MAJ. LEADER</u> | <u>PARTY RATIO</u> | <u>DAYS IN SESSION</u> | <u>TIME IN SESSION</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 94th I | Jan 14-Dec 19, 1975 | Mansfield | 60D*- 38R - 1 IND** | 178 | 1,177 hrs, 11' |
| 94th II | Jan 19-Oct 1, 1976 | Mansfield | 61D - 38R - 1 IND | 142 | 1,033 hrs, 01' |
| 95th I | Jan 4-Dec 15, 1977 | Byrd | 61D - 38R - 1 IND | 178 | 1,143 hrs, 42' |
| 95th II | Jan 19-Oct 15, 1978 | Byrd | 61D - 38R - 1 IND | 159 | 1,366 hrs, 22' |
| 96th I | Jan 15-Dec 20, 1979 | Byrd | 58D - 41R - 1 IND | 167 | 1,159 hrs, 01' |
| 96th II | Jan 3-Dec 16, 1980 | Byrd | 58D - 41R - 1 IND | 166 | 1,165 hrs, 10' |
| 97th I | Jan 5-Dec 16, 1981 | Baker | 53R - 46D - 1 IND | 165 | 1,079 hrs, 54' |
| 97th II | Jan 25-Dec 23, 1982 | Baker | 53R - 46D - 1 IND | 147 | 1,079 hrs, 55' |
| 98th I | Jan 3-Nov 18, 1983 | Baker | 55R - 45D | 150 | 1,010 hrs, 47' |
| 98th II | Jan 23-Oct 12, 1984 | Baker | 55R - 45D | 131 | 940 hrs, 25' |
| 99th I | Jan 3-Nov 30, 1985 | Dole | 53R - 47D | 155 | 1,128 hrs, 00' |
| 99th II | Jan 21-Aug 16, 1986 | Dole | 53R - 47D | 112 | 937 hrs, 34' |

NOTE: Figures taken from the Congressional Record Daily Digest "Resume of Congressional Activity"

* Open seat, contested election in New Hampshire

** Senator Harry Byrd, Virginia Independent

ALREADY THIS SESSION, THE SENATE HAS ACHIEVED SEVERAL LANDMARK FEATS. AFTER 37 YEARS, WE RATIFIED THE GENOCIDE TREATY; AND WE BROUGHT THE SENATE INTO THE ELECTRONIC ERA BY ALLOWING GAVEL-TO-GAVEL COVERAGE OF FLOOR DEBATE -- STREAMLINING SOME OF OUR OWN RULES IN THE PROCESS. WE'VE PASSED AN HISTORIC TAX REFORM MEASURE; AND A NUMBER OF CRITICAL FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES, INCLUDING CONTRA AID AND SOUTH AFRICA SANCTIONS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS YEAR WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THAT HISTORY OF BIPARTISAN COOPERATION. IN THE INTEREST OF COMPLETING THE WORK OF THE SENATE IN AN EXPEDITIOUS FASHION, I FULLY EXPECT WE WILL PRESS AHEAD TOWARD SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 99TH CONGRESS WITH THE SENATE'S TYPICAL "CAN-DO" SPIRIT.

NOW I KNOW THAT IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, SOME MEMBERS MIGHT RUSH TO JUDGMENT; TO ARGUE THAT THERE'S TOO MUCH "PARTISANSHIP"; OR THAT THERE'S NEVER BEEN A "WORSE" SESSION; OR THAT SOMEHOW THE LEADERSHIP HAS "LOST CONTROL"; OR THAT WE'RE "BREAKING ALL RECORDS" FOR HOURS SPENT ON THE FLOOR. BUT A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE RECORD SHOWS THAT THESE CHARGES MISS THE MARK.

IN SUM, THERE IS A LOT TO DO; WE HAVE DONE A LOT ALREADY; AND THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE FACT THAT THE SENATE REALLY GETS IN GEAR ONLY WHEN FACED WITH A DEADLINE. THE DEADLINE IS HERE, SO LET'S GET GOING.

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